

Stop-Grazing Heights Are Important!



How to Measure

Use a grazing stick or any tape measure or ruler and measure the shortest forage present. The dominant, shortest forage represents your present grazing height.

Ideal stop-grazing heights

Cool season forages: \approx 3 to 4 inches

Warm season forages: \approx 6 to 12 inches

Stop-grazing height is the shortest forage left standing, not the tallest!



ANIMAL INTAKE



RECOVERY



MORE ROOTS



COOL and WARM SEASON FORAGES



HEALTHY SOIL

Good Stop Grazing Heights

Increase:

- Animal intake
- Forage regrowth
- Root development
- Drought tolerance

Can Also Improve:

- Rest and recovery period
- Soil organic matter
- Nutrient cycling
- Water infiltration which reduces runoff
- Overall soil health benefits

Better Pastures

There are several key items associated with good pasture management. All of them lead to improved forage quality, higher production, a longer growing season, and also, hopefully, satisfied, happy animals. Most resource concerns associated with pasture can be addressed solely by making sure that stop-grazing heights are maintained. Well managed pastures in Indiana are environmentally friendly, benefit grazing livestock, and also benefit many species of wildlife, especially nesting song birds such as meadowlarks, who depend on this habitat for food and cover.

Technical & Financial Help

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide technical assistance to plan and design the right practice(s) to treat and improve pasture resource concerns. USDA financial assistance may also be available.

To learn more visit:

www.in.nrcs.usda.gov